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THE OLD HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

This view of the ancient place of British legislation, may awaken many recollections and various feelings in the mind of an American. Seen from the Thames the old edifices made a venerable and impressive effect; and we well remember the solemnity in which the whole scene was invested to our eyes, when in youth we once, at midnight, followed an unknown guide along the opposite bank, having lost the way in attempting to reach a hotel in the heart of the city. Many an edifice and many a spot in the land of our ancestors claim of us a more than passing interest, on account of some relation connecting it with our native country; and the old Parliament House was the place where the most important interests of America have been touched, sometimes for their benefit and sometimes for their injury.

An American, though often better read in the History of England than many Englishmen themselves, and feeling more, among the memorials of her past days, than long familiarity with them will allow a native to feel, yet naturally first turns to objects and scenes, to events and personages, connected with his own land, many of which have formed the themes of our firesides, and called forth the comments of distant or departed friends. And, while contemplating a scene like that represented above, we naturally recur to the councils of statesmen and the measures of cabinets, kings and parliaments, by which the condition of our country has been seriously affected. What angry denunciations were pronounced in these halls against our countrymen, when they began to resist the oppression of those who denied

them "the rights of free-born Englishmen!" What contemptuous aspersions were cast on their characters, motives and measures! And, in the course of the lessons which the mother country needed to be taught, respecting her colonies, what various feelings were at different times excited, as news was received of the defeat of her proud armies, and the failure of her best laid plans! But how gratifying to remember Pitt and his associates, and to follow the course of history a little farther, and to recal the evidences of growing attachment which began to appear, after the last blow was struck at Yorktown, by which the revolution was proclaimed successful!

We soon turn to other periods of English history, and recal some of the effects of principles avowed, or measures adopted in that ancient seat of popular legislation, that great model of national liberty in Europe.

The parliament, says an English writer, is the legislative branch of the supreme power of Great Britain, consisting of the king, the lords temporal and spiritual, and the knights, citizens and burgesses, representatives of the commons of the realm, in parliament assembled. The power and jurisdiction of parliament, are so transcendant and absolute, that they cannot be confined, either for causes or for persons, within any bounds.

It must be summoned by the king, at least forty days before it sits, although the Convention Parliament (the House of Commons) from necessity was summoned by the keepers of the liberty of England, by authority of Parliament. It cannot begin without the king, in person or by representation. The principal privileges of Parliament are the privilege of speech, which is essential to its existence, and whence its name is derived: in this there are no exceptions, save in some precedents of information filed for using free language, during the

reign of Charles, ("which it is to be hoped, will never be drawn into authority;") and the privilege of persons from arrest and imprisonment for debt. This latter lasts forty days after the prorogation and forty before its opening. All other privileges inconsistent with the common laws and civil rights have been abolished by statutes. By George IV. ch. 33, a member, if a trader, may be served with a legal process for any debt of £100; and it will be an act of bankruptcy unless satisfied in two months. The Peers may vote by proxy and enter a protest against any bill.

All bills for the appropriation of money must begin in the Commons; and it is the custom to frame a new bill when any alteration is made by the Lords. Popular representation is the foundation stone of the House of Commons; and a most important principle it is, one of leading importance, which should never be forgotten by a reader of history, or an observer of mankind in any age or country. It exists in different forms and degrees, in more countries and districts and among more tribes and nations, than is generally supposed: but there are only a few in which it has so far prevailed, and under such favorable influences, as to have produced many of its good fruits. The savages of America and many other people in the lowest stages of society, have generally had popular governments: but superstition usually gives a great ascendancy to their jugglers or conjurors, who by various artifices keep their minds in subjection, by fear, and control or direct the public will, which is in other respects free. In Spain and Italy, they had, and still have, provinces or states, with some of the forms of republican governments: but Rome has managed to lay them under a bondage exceedingly similar to that of the Pagan priesthood. England, long after the establishment of her parliament was greatly restricted by the same means.

A Portuguese Bull-Fight.

Aviero is a respectable venerable looking place ; part of the old walls, built before gunpowder was used to knock down houses, still remains. The grass grows in some of the streets. There are six monasteries, now tumbling down : the once jovial friars have turned into something else. There are 1500 houses, it is ruled by a civil governor, and exports an inferior sort of wine, very fine oil, and salt. The buildings now extend beyond the walls, and among them, facing the canal, we found an 'estalagem.' There were only two rooms vacant in the house, one of them serving as an eating, the other as a sleeping room, for all the party. We dined, not very sumptuously, it must be owned, but the house afforded nothing better than what we got, and we then sallied forth to inspect the bull circus, which was situated by the side of the canal, and close to our hotel.

It was a large amphitheatre, two stories high, composed of rough deal boards ; the lower part, where the poorer class of spectators assemble, having bars across to keep the bulls from getting in, the upper being divided into boxes, some for the people of consequence in the neighborhood being decorated with silken hangings, the others having little to boast of in the way of ornament. Considering, however, it was merely run up for the occasion, it looked well. For a small sum we secured one of the best boxes. As we entered the theatre we found the lower gallery already crowded, the eager faces of men, women and children, looking through the bars. The boxes also quickly filled with spectators, a large proportion of whom were women, though few, if any, I suspect and hope, claimed the rank of ladies. In the centre of the circus was a flag-staff, on which waved the constitutional banner, and surrounding it were several stout poles, so placed as to allow a person to pass between them, and to form a space in the interior three or four yards in diameter. This was to serve as a place of refuge to the picadors, when hard pressed by the bulls.

While waiting to see what would take place, we heard the lively tones of musical instruments, wasted from a distance it appeared, across the lake, and, looking out at the back of our box, we saw sev-

eral large boats gliding up the canal, quite full of people habited in a variety of masquerading costumes, and accompanied by bands of music, with which their voices joined in chorus. The masqueraders afforded much amusement as they landed by their grotesque appearance, particularly by the dignified airs they assumed, and by the courteous grace with which the gentleman handed the ladies from their barges. They then, in large parties, entered the area of the circus. Some were dressed as Turks, others as old men in the costume of the past century, with long beards, deep-waisted coats, breeches, and flowered waistcoats, not forgetting wigs and three-cornered hats : others again were disguised as negroes, with hideous black masks of gigantic size. The ladies, of various nations and eras, were almost as numerous, and I should have supposed that these were female bull-fighters, had not their awkward, unfeminine movements completely betrayed them as belonging to the rougher sex. Shouts of laughter arose from the spectators as these odd looking objects leaped about, and performed all sorts of antics, very derogatory to the characters they had assumed : two antique gentleman would play at leap-frog, while a black would pull the nose of a Turk, and kiss his sultana before his face, receiving in return a friendly shake of the hand. Of course all these people were of the lowest ranks, but were most orderly in their behavior, though I have seldom seen a more merry, shouting, laughing crowd, their practical jokes, albeit neither very new nor over refined, yet affording the audience much amusement before the business of the day commenced.

A huge negro walked in with a bag under his arm, the contents of which everybody seemed anxious to discover, following him about in every direction, when at last an old gentleman, putting his nose in to satisfy his curiosity, out jumped a large cat in his face. Immediately the motley rabble were in chase of poor Grimalkin ; round and round the circus it flew with the shouting crowd at its tail ; whenever it tried to escape through the bars, being driven off by the people within. Never was unhappy puss so persecuted ; a member of parliament who has ratted, or an orator who has offended a mob, could scarcely have been

more persecuted, when, while the maskers were in full career, the doors of the bull-pen were suddenly thrown open, and into the circus among the laughing mass rushed a fine black bull!

They scampered off in every direction; their safety consisted in their noise and numbers, for at first the bull was bewildered at the strange scene. For a moment he stood disdainfully tossing his head as he looked around on the motley crowd, some of whom, by means of the bars, were climbing into the boxes, others taking refuge between the poles in the centre. Furiously he lashed his tail, his rage increasing, not knowing which way to turn; at last, attracted by the shouts of the people in the centre, and by a red flag waved before his eyes, he dashed towards it; a man then from amid the posts, armed with a number of darts, fixed one in his neck. Irritated by the smart, he now dashed blindly at every object in his way, and woe betide the unhappy wight his horns encountered; though, by the by, they were well padded, and could with difficulty do mortal harm. The maskers, mostly armed with darts and red flags, followed hooting after him, round and round the ring; he received every time he got near the centre a shower of darts in his neck and shoulders, when furious he would every now and then turn on his tormentors and put them to a rapid flight. Indeed he in truth seemed to have the best of the fight, though he would doubtless have preferred a quiet graze in a green pasture to this sort of amusement; the wounds he received annoying him probably little more than would the bites of so many gnats a human being, he shaking out many of the darts and trampling them beneath his feet with disdain; indeed he soon learned to avoid the centre whence they were thrown. My sympathies were all for the noble beast, though my pity was not. I longed to see the padding come off his horns, and to let him have his full revenge. I would rather have become the bull than to have been one of his tormentors.

Two or three men now entered the arena, habited in the usual Spanish costume of matadors with lance banners, and 'couteaux de chasse'; but as it appeared, they were prohibited from killing or inflicting any serious injury on the animals; they were there more for orna-

ment than for service, their chief employment being to wave their red flags before the eyes of the bulls, or if they became sluggish, to prick them with their lances, and to leap out of their way as fast as they possibly could. At length, when they and the bull grew tired, a figure was thrown into the circus, ridiculously dressed in gaudy colors, and formed like those toys called Indian tumblers, with a weight at the lowest part, which always made it regain its perpendicular position, however knocked about. No sooner did the bull perceive the figure, than, turning all his rage from his real foes, he rushed furiously at it, throwing it high in the air, when down it came again on his feet, bobbing away, not at all the worse for its summerset. Again he charged at it with increased rage, as in the most absurd way, bowing like a mandarin, it politely awaited his coming. Shrieks and shouts of laughter arose from the assembled multitude, tears running down the cheeks of several fat old farmers who sat near us.

"Bravo, bravo! this is a banquet of fun!" they cried. "Bravo, bravo! well done figure, well done bull!"

At length the figure, after many more tosses, becoming entangled in the horns of the bull, he bore it in fancied triumph round and round the circus; but, by some chance, again falling to the ground, to his horror and dismay there it appeared undauntedly prepared to renew the combat. What the bull thought, I cannot tell, probably that if what he had done would not kill his foe, nothing would; for suddenly turning tail, he refused again to come, and ran off to the door by which he entered, whence he was allowed to escape, the nodding figure remaining master of the field. A second bull, with thickly padded horns, who at the first showed more spirit and determination than his predecessor, was now let into the arena, and so actively did he pursue his tormentors, that much to our satisfaction he came up with one of them midway between the centre and the rails, where he could not escape. Butting fiercely at the man, the beast lifted him by the back high into the air; fortunately, down he came again on his feet, and contrived to scamper off without further injury than a good fright; indeed, the sport, if so it may be called, was throughout a very bloodless one.

This bull, highly delighted at his success, continued his course, lashing his tail, and turning his head from side to side round the circus in search of combatants; but he had taught his foes a lesson, and they were cautious how they got in his way. Five bulls were successively driven in to shew their courage, but most of them seemed very unwilling to fight, and kept turning many a wistful glance at the door by which they entered, as if they longed to quit the noisy crowd, and return to their cool, green pastures: true philosophers, of whom a lesson may be learned by mankind in general. Then, when they found that they could neither escape nor overtake their tormenting enemies, they would stand bellowing with rage and disappointment; and two of them, convinced that their attempts at revenge were fruitless, sagaciously ran to the gate, nor could any further insults induce them to quit it. I wish they could have spoken, to have harangued the human beings on their conduct. I think they might possibly have made them ashamed of themselves.

In vain the matadors with their long lances leapt about, and waved their flags before the beasts—in vain were showers of darts hurled at them, in vain Turks, blacks, old men and women hissed, hooted and shrieked; the bull turned with contempt upon them, and bellowed forth, "Let me out, let me out, let me out."

The sport was now growing tame, when a young bull being let into the ring, set off running round and round, seeming to enjoy the fun as much as any one, till a man, an immense big fellow, leapt on his back, and then throwing himself off, literally seized the bull by the horns, and held him firmly down. I must do the spectators the justice to say, that when they fancied any of the masqueraders were in danger of being tossed, as of course was frequently the case, they exhibited their sympathy by cries and exclamations of pity. "Oh, Jesu-Maria! oh, Nossa Senhora! have mercy on the poor man," was heard from the fair portion of the audience, while shouts of laughter resounded on all sides when any one cleverly escaped the horns of the beast. The shades of the evening putting an end to the sport, the spectators dispersed orderly, though not silently, to their homes, the masqueraders returning to their barges in a variety of

grotesque attitudes, with shouts of laughter, singing, and music, while the bulls were ferried across to some of the numerous fenny islands in the lake, there to roam in freedom till their wounds were healed, and till their tempers, ruffled slightly, it may be supposed, by the treatment they had received, were sufficiently soothed to allow them to encounter with complacency, or at all events, without thoughts of revenge, the presence of their tormentor—man.

I have never heard of bull-fights in any other part of the north of Portugal at the present day; and in this place it is allowed on account of some privilege claimed by the inhabitants.—*New York Saturday Emporium.*

CANINE SAGACITY.—A contemporary relates an instance of canine sagacity:—A dog ran against an old gentleman and knocked him down, but instead of passing on, after the manner of cab and omnibus drivers, he stopped and made several attempts to raise him, by seizing the collar of his coat, but being unsuccessful, he waited until some persons came to his assistance, all the while looking on anxiously, until it had been ascertained that no serious mischief had been done.

THE TELEGRAPH—A NEW INVENTION.—We understand that the New York and Buffalo Telegraph Company design laying a new set of wires over their line immediately, it being intended to commence the work the present week. It is understood, also, that a new invention has recently been made, by which the writing process is rendered plain and simple. The inventor has not yet made the details of his machine public, but it is understood to operate so as to make the impression of every letter perfectly distinct upon the paper. This of course will do away with the characters to represent the alphabet. Two or three of the Telegraph Companies who have got somewhat of an insight into the uses of it are already negotiating for it.

The Jews of France, represented by fourteen delegates, and the members of the central consistory, have just elected M. Ennéery, Grand Rabbi of the Paris district, to the post of Grand Rabbi of the whole of France.—SÉL.

Algeria.

The origin of the war between France and the Dey of Algiers, in consequence of which, 'during the last fifteen years, according to an estimate, half a million of French soldiers have perished,' is thus described :

"In relating the well known incident that gave rise to hostilities between France and the Dey of Algiers, Count St. Marie goes back to the remote cause, which, by his account, was a lady. In the time of Napoleon the Bey of Tunis had a favorite female slave, for whom he ordered, of an Algerine Jew, a costly and magnificent head dress. The Jew, unable to get it manufactured in the country, wrote to Paris; the head dress was made at an expense of twelve thousand francs, and the modest Israelite charged it thirty thousand to the Bey. The latter was too much pleased with the bauuble to demur at the price, but, not being in cash, he paid it in corn. There chanced just then to be a scarcity in France; the Jew sold his grain to the army contractors, and managed so well that he became a creditor of the French Government for upwards of a million of francs. Napoleon fell, and the Bourbons declined to pay; but the Jew contrived to interest the Dey of Algiers in his cause, and remonstrances were addressed to the French Government. The affair dragged on for years, and at last, in 1829, on the eve of a festival, when the diplomatic corps were admitted to pay their respects to the Dey, the latter expostulated with the French consul on the subject of the long delay. The answer was unsatisfactory, and the consequence was the celebrated rap with a fan or fly-flap, which sent its giver to exile, and converted Algeria into a French province. On visiting the Kasbath, or citadel, at Algiers, Capt. Kennedy was shown the little room in which the insult was offered to the representative of France. It is now used as a poultry yard. 'Singularly enough,' says the captain, 'as we entered, a cock, strutting on the deserted divan, proclaimed his victory over some feebler rival by a triumphant crow—an appropriate emblem of the real state of affairs.' But the conquered cock is game; and although sorely punished by his adversary's spurs, he returns again and again to the charge."

[Selected.]

The Nation's Only Safety.

Picket your entire sea-board with forts; plant a Paixhan battery on every hill top; let a crescent of seventy-fours occupy the mouth of every harbor and inlet; what avails it all, unless you have incorruptible integrity in the national councils, in the field, behind the breast-work, on the quarter-deck? And how are you to secure it here, if it be not first among the people?—Can the stream rise higher than the fountain? If the fountains of power among the people are corrupt, can you expect their representatives to be men of spotless integrity? But on the contrary, strip the coast of its defences; blow up every fort; dismantle every battery; burn every ship of war; hurl every gun overboard; but secure an incorruptible populace: let the great mass be upright men, deeply imbued with a spirit of sound morality, and the nation is nevertheless invincible. From such an exhaustless source, will issue forth the statesmen, the soldiers, the seamen, the captains and generals, who will hurl invasion from your shores; and re-teach the revolutionary lessons, that a virtuous people, contending for their natural rights, are unconquerable.

—Dr. Judkin.

SIAMESE GEOGRAPHICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL KNOWLEDGE.—The Rev. Mr. Jones, Baptist missionary in Siam, gave a lecture in Portland. He thus spoke of the geographical and astronomical knowledge of the Siamese: they believe that the earth is made of many great continents of different shapes and sizes—that on one of these which they call the great central one, there is a mountain 84,000 miles high; that under this mountain is the place of future punishment, and around it the place of future happiness. They account for the eclipses of the sun and moon, by supposing the existence of an enormous giant, who occasionally takes in his hand the sun and moon, and so hides their light. But recently, some of them are acquiring more correct views of geography and astronomy. One of their learned men has even calculated an eclipse, and has obtained a correct idea of the globular shape of the earth, by observing the form of its shadow in an eclipse of the moon.

Under American missionaries they must improve.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

*(For the American Penny Magazine.)***The Story of Nineteen Young Men at the Battle of Concord.***Concluded from page 735.*

Fathers and mothers, brothers sisters and friends would mingle their groans and tears: and what house would there be without a mourner? Few, very few, of his young friends would be left alive. The flower of the village, were dead. And how sorrowful was the recollection, that all had been owing to himself! He had first thought of the expedition, and they had gone because he had invited them. How much would he be blamed, and what could he say to excuse himself? He had trusted to his own skill and judgment, and his frank and generous young friends had been equally confident: but how sad was the result! He had indeed escaped, and was unhurt: but they would probably return to their houses no more. If young men were to reflect on the sad case, if they could consider for a moment what must have been the self-reproach of this young man, they would resolve to be always on their guard against that confidence in themselves which is often so dangerous, and that want of respect and obedience to their parents which God has so expressly commanded.

How happy would he have been if he had regarded his duty, and made the sacrifice of submitting to the known wishes of his venerable father! Even if he had possessed the humility and self-suspicion which so highly adorns the character of a young man, his large circle of associates might have survived, to comfort their friends and be the bulwark of their native place in the threatening war which had just commenced.

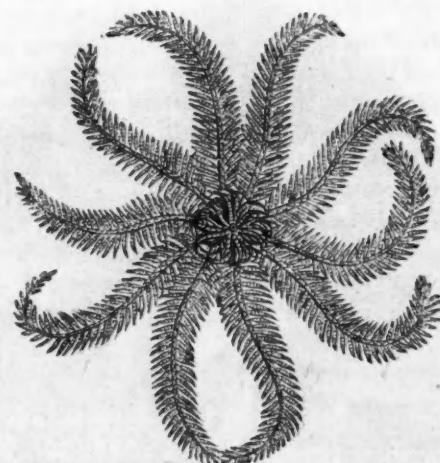
But let us return to the place where our story opened. The people of the village were filled with anxiety when the young adventurers were missed, and they conjectured too truly at the cause

of their departure. Long they waited for tidings from the field: but long they failed to receive any certain account of their brothers and sons. For this there was a sad reason. He alone knew their tale; and he was reluctant to return to his home. At length the truth was ascertained. They had been all surrounded in the house in which they had sought refuge; and the enemy, rushing in, had overpowered and killed them all with their bayonets, with as much dispatch as possible, fearful of being cut off in their turn. Those who went in search of their bodies, found them in the house, in different rooms where they had been left by the soldiers; and, on counting them, they found that the whole party were there except one. There were the eighteen of those they sought, and he only was wanting who had so providentially escaped. The mangled bodies were taken, and laid upon carriages to be transported to their homes; and a melancholy one it was in the village, when the corpses were left at the doors of those habitations, where their weeping friends received them with tears and sobs. When laid upon their beds, parents, brothers and sister's beheld the blood on their clothes and the wounds which had mangled their flesh in different places, how they must lament over the horrid effects of war, and felt the worth of filial obedience.

The bodies were all laid in the village burying ground in one day; and what a melancholy must have followed them to the grave! It was long remembered, and will be commemorated still by a monument which has been erected to the eighteen young men whose remains, by such a sad event, were brought together to their last repose.

Of the desire of empty glory the companions are simulation and vain speaking; but of pride, suspicion and envy.

[Selected.]



THE STAR FISH.

We give the common name of one species of this remarkable kind of sea-shore animals, feeling confident that the figure will appear familiar to some of our readers, who may wish to hear some explanation of some of their peculiarities. Among the numerous objects which attract the attention of a visitor to the sea side, are these singular creatures, whose forms resemble a plant or a flower rather than an animal. When seen under water the illusion is more complete; but when taken in the hand the mistake is discovered.

A close examination, however, by an unscientific eye, does not suffice to discover the nature or habits of the animal, although it is clearly seen to be alive, and an inhabitant of the water. The species most common on our shores has five equal rays, proceeding from a centre, covered with a hard, whitish crust, and furnished on the under side with numerous short, fleshy fibres, like little legs, which keep in rapid motion. As the animal cannot change its form, having no joint in any part of its crust, and there are no distinct signs of eyes or mouth, the inexperienced captor naturally raises questions about the nature of its food, and even its means and mode of taking and devouring it. If handled carelessly, however, it adheres to the

skin, and causes a painful sensation. If a manual of Natural History is at hand, (as it always should be, with every person likely to need its aid,) a solution may soon be found of all these mysteries.

They belong to the fourth and last division of animals: the Radiata, whose parts are ranged around an axis, or upon one or several lines. This division embraces a great variety, at the head of which stands the star-fish. The first class is the Hedgehog-skinned (*Enchinodermata*), of which the first order is small-footed, (*Pedicellata*.) The first species placed under this order by Cuvier is the 'Asterias,' or Star-fish. They have their skin covered with a hard crust, like a crab or lobster, and the mouth is underneath, in the centre. The feet are small cylindrical tentacula, like short threads, at the end of each of which is a little sucker, or cup, from which the animal exhausts the air at pleasure, and thus adheres to whatever it touches. By this means it moves over the rocks at the bottom of the sea, and easily holds its prey.

WILD PIGEONS.—Flocks of these birds are floating "high in the air" about the country: probably driven hither by the keenness of the Northern wintry winds.
—*Charleston Patriot.*



A CHINESE OFFERING TO AN IDOL.

Idolatry forms so important a part of the Chinese character, that it must never be lost sight of, in taking a view of their social, moral or intellectual condition. As among other Pagans, false religion often appears to have more influence upon their thoughts and lives, than the truth of God upon nations calling themselves Christian. The number and variety of their Gods and other objects of worship we have before spoken of at some length. We shall only add to this striking figure, the following advertisement, translated from a late Canton newspaper. How much the advertiser appears like the coppersmiths of Ephesus, whose craft was endangered by the preaching of Paul!

"I Achen Teu Chinchen—a lineal descendant of Coap Boi Roche Chinchen, the celebrated sculptor and carver in wood, who, through his unremitting studies to promote rational religious worship, by the classical touches of his knife and chisel, has been honored by the

emperors, kings and rajahs of the east, and supplied them with superior idols for public and domestic worship, now humbly offer my services in the same theological line, having travelled from hence at a considerable expense to perfect myself in anatomy, and in copying the most graceful attitudes of the human figure, under those able masters, Nollekins and Bacon. Achen Teu Chinchen is now in possession of casts of the most approved models and Elgin marbles, he is ready to execute to order, idols from 12 feet high, well proportioned, down to the size of a maromost monkey, or the most hideous monster that can be conceived, to inspire awe or reverence for religion. My charges are moderate; for an ourang outang, three feet high, seven hundred dollars; ditto rampant, eight hundred; a sphinx, four hundred; a bull with hump and horns, six hundred and fifty; a buffald, eight hundred; a dog, two hundred; ditto couchant, one hundred and fifty; and an ass in a braying attitude, eight hundred and fifty;—the most durable materials will be used. Of stationary, granite, brass and copper, I have provided sufficient."

Education in India.

The history of the measures adopted by the authorities of India in respect to education, is both instructive and encouraging. Warren Hastings was the earliest Governor-general who gave his official countenance and support to any educational arrangement; but, unfortunately, the very first step which he took, was in the wrong direction. He determined to exert his vast influence in favor of upholding and perpetuating Hindoo and Mohammedan learning; and he even went so far as to found and maintain colleges, at the expense of the British government, for this specific and sole purpose. Thus the patronage of a Christian people was given to systems of error and blasphemy and guilt, such as have had no parallel in the history of man!

About twenty years ago, the plan adopted by Warren Hastings was slightly modified. It was then conceded that some rays of European knowledge might be admitted to the darkened mind of Hindostan. Still, however, the basis of education, as encouraged by the government, continued to be a "learned orientalism;" and the acquisition of the literature and science of the West was altogether a secondary affair.

It was not till 1835, that the public patronage was withdrawn from the absurdities and abominations of Hindoo and Mohammedan learning. By a decree of Lord William Bentinck, it was then distinctly announced that the countenance of the British nation could only be given to the inculcation of truth; and as the systems of the East were made up of the grossest errors, European learning alone should thenceforth be taught in the governmental institutions. This measure constituted a new epoch in the educational history of India. Orientalism began at once to languish, and the rich stores of civilised nations were sought with avidity and delight.

But a new and more difficult question now arose. What was to become of those who might attain to an acquaintance with western civilization? How were they to find employments suited to their talents and acquirements? The answer to these inquiries was seen at once to depend very much on the policy which the government should pursue in the selection of its agents. Having the disposal of thousands of offices of every

kind and grade, it could easily provide places for an immense number of well educated natives. But its prerogative, unhappily, had been but seldom and sparingly exercised in this direction. Down to the present time, indeed, the servants of the government have shown a strange disinclination to encourage young natives of European education. The preference has uniformly been given to unchanged, bigoted Hindoos, in spite of the glaring defects of their intellectual training, and notwithstanding the utter worthlessness of their moral code.

But wiser counsels have at length prevailed. The new Governor-general, Sir Henry Hardinge, has completely reversed the policy of his predecessors. Henceforward the best qualified, intellectually and morally, are to receive the preference, however high, or however low the station which is to be filled. The amazing importance of this regulation will be inferred from the fact, that, while there are not more than a dozen persons of superior qualifications in the higher departments of the Bengal service, there are at least ten thousand employed in humbler offices who can neither read nor write! And, what is not less extraordinary, all institutions, whether governmental or not, are placed upon an equal footing. The graduates of mission seminaries may apply for vacant offices, with the same chance of success as others. "This," says Dr. Duff, "is a remarkable feature. It is the first public recognition of missionary and other similar institutions, in immediate connection with the state."

The foregoing facts make a strong appeal to the Christian and philanthropist.
—Selected.

To our old Subscribers.—With our good wishes and thanks, we send our respectful request to them to aid us in extending the circulation of our Magazine, if they think it worthy of the places at which it aims, in the family library, and among the schools of the country. We think the improvements designed for the coming year, will not leave room to regret any efforts they may feel justified in making in favor of a publication which is conducted at much expense, and is designed to accomplish objects in which all are interested.

BOOKS.

Book, (in Latin, liber), the composition of a man of wit and learning, designed to communicate somewhat he has invented, experienced or collected, to the public, and thence to their posterity; being withal of a competent length to make a volume.

In this sense a book is distinguished from a pamphlet, by its greater length; and from a tome or volume, by its containing the whole writing. According to the ancients a book differed from an epistle, not only in bulk, but in that the latter was folded, at the former rolled up; not but what there are divers ancient books, now extant, under the names of epistles.

According to 8 Anne, c. 19, the author of any book and his assigns, shall have the sole liberty of printing and reprinting the same for fourteen years, to commence from the day of the first publication thereof, and no longer; except that, if the author be living at the expiration of the said term, the sole copyright shall return to him for other fourteen years; and if any other person shall print or import, or shall sell, or expose it to sale, he shall forfeit the same, and also one penny for every sheet thereof, found in his possession. But this shall not expose any person to the said forfeitures, unless the title thereof shall be entered in the register book of the company of Stationers.

By statute, eleven copies of each book on the best paper shall, before publication, be delivered to the warehouse keeper of the Company of Stationers, for the use of the Royal Library, the Libraries of the two Universities in England, the four Universities in Scotland, the Library of Sion College, the Library belonging to the College of Advocates in Edinburgh, the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and the King's Inn, Dublin, on pain of forfeiting the value thereof, and five pounds.—*Wicholson's Encyc.*

New Books.

"Learning to Think," "Learning to Act," and "Learning to Feel."—Three elegant Juvenile books, under these titles, have been published by the American Sunday School Union, in season for Holiday presents; and we take pleasure in recommending them for the occasion, as well as for purchase and perusal for all parts of the year. They are in the form of familiar dialogues, and contain a great amount of useful and practical lessons for the young, in a pleasing natural style. They are rendered more attractive by numerous cuts and finely engraved frontispieces.

"The Solar System," and "The Sidereal Heavens"—Are two other works of similar size, issued by the same Society, which has thus presented two books of more than ordinary value to the young of our country. Public thanks are due for these public favors. These volumes are reprints from originals prepared by the Religious Tract Society of London; and a more judicious selection could hardly have been made. The former of these books presents to us the sun and planets, with a few instructions on the best modes of contemplating them, in their different motions and aspects. The second makes the reader acquainted with the discoveries made among the fixed stars, their arrangement, magnitudes and distances, and what is known concerning double and triple stars, the milky way, the nebula, &c. &c. All this information is conveyed in a far more particular manner than in the geographies, and most other books hitherto prepared for the young; and the perusal of these two works cannot fail to instruct as well as to please.

A VALUABLE HOLIDAY GIFT.—*The American Penny Magazine*, Vol. I., neatly bound, is for sale at this office, and may be ordered through agents, booksellers, &c., 832 pages, with about 200 Engravings, for \$2. Vol. II. will soon be bound.

The Close of the Year.

How can we reach the end of another year without giving our minds to many interesting reflections? The relations which an editor bears to his readers are of a peculiar nature. A kindly regard, a species of friendship must exist in the heart of a man, towards those for whom his thoughts and his labors are daily employed. But the case is very different from that of personal acquaintances. He knows the most of them only by name, or by the brief expressions of business letters, requests or directions, often sent through a third person. He endeavors to form ideas of the tastes or circumstances of some of those whose names he sees on his subscription list, and is often influenced in choosing a subject, or in preferring one extract to another, by recollecting an hundred or more readers, in a particular region of country, or by reflecting that the page is to be opened in a thousand families, whose situation may render the choice important.

Many other reflections we might here refer to, which, we can assure our readers, we have made in the course of the now closing year. Some very pleasing recollections must ever be associated with it. Many of the various seeds of useful and ornamental trees, grains and flowers, which we have distributed, are now growing, or their seeds have been gathered for future diffusion; many persons whose faces we have never seen have kindly co-operated with us in an interesting plan for the public good; and not a few have thus formed a habit which may be lasting, and the cause of much benefit to themselves and others. We have only room to say here, that we intend to pursue the practice, and wait only for the payment of the annual subscription from some, to supply each with twenty-five seeds of our noble, but much neglected native Catalpa tree, or such other seeds as they may prefer, and which we can procure.

We and our readers have floated another year down the stream of time, and are a year nearer to its end. Yonder ocean is not like the river. The objects we see as we move along the banks will soon be passed; the scenes which engage our attention will disappear, and we shall be on the ocean: a world we have never yet seen will be around us, full of things new and doubtless surprising; and

one of the greatest novelties will be, its unchangeableness. Reflections like these may well render every relation we form in life an interesting one; for almost every relation has some connection with the future world. The thought of those coming scenes has had an influence in many of the lines we have addressed to our readers in the past year. And are we not right in urging them to prefer truth to fiction, when all of us are intimately concerned in the great truths of a future existence, in the fact that we are surrounded by real dangers?

In looking forward to the future, we may safely announce to our readers that there is in prospect for them a great amount and variety of entertainment and instruction. New sources of information, large supplies of variety open to us as we proceed. Ingenious men are pursuing their inventions, and the learned are publishing their discoveries and comparing their opinions, while philanthropists are seeking and finding new ways of usefulness. Science and art are proceeding with wonderful rapidity, and literature ought to accompany them. While it is our business to select from the valuable mass the best, in order to scatter it among the families of our native land, we often regret that we are compelled to omit much of what is good.

Our original plan was to introduce several topics each week which we have not yet presented to our friends. Among these are *Lessons for self instruction and mutual instruction*, in various branches; and some of these we intend soon to lay before our readers.

One of the most interesting discoveries of modern times is the Persepolitan alphabet. The mysterious arrow-headed characters, engraved on the banks of Babylon and the ruins of Persepolis, have been just made legible, by a German Professor; and we shall make them known.

We believe we shall soon surprize our readers with the results of a project we have long had in view, for the facilitating of pictorial and other illustrations by the press. In due time the public may know something of it for their advantage.

We abridge our second volume somewhat, to prepare for the third at New-Year's: but shall make amends to our readers for the loss in a satisfactory way. With these remarks we wish them all
“A HAPPY-NEW-YEAR.”

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